

- Brooklyn Museum Quarterly. (Vol. vii. no. 4.)
 Canadian Field-Naturalist. (Vol. xxxiv. no. 4.)
 Cassinia. (No. 23 for 1919, issued Oct. 1920.)
 Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. (Vol. x. pts. 3-4.)
 Condor. (Vol. xxii. no. 5.)
 Danske Fugle. (Vol. i. no. 1.)
 El Hornero. (Vol. ii. no. 1.)
 Emu. (Vol. xx. pts. 1-2.)
 Fauna och Flora. (1920, pts. 4-5.)
 Gerfaut. (10^e ann., pt. 3.)
 Irish Naturalist. (Vol. xxix. nos. 10-12.)
 Journal of the Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. (Vol. xxvii. no. 1.)
 Journ. Fed. Malay States Museums. (Vol. ix. pt. 2.)
 Journal für Ornithologie. (Jahrg. 64-68, 1916-1920.)
 Ornithologische Monatsberichte. (Jahrg. 28, nos. 11-12.)
 Revue Française d'Ornithologie. (12^e ann., nos. 138-139.)
 Revue d'Hist. nat. appl. L'Oiseau. (1920, nos. 10-11.)
 Scottish Naturalist. (1920, nos. 105-108.)
 Verhandlungen Orn. Ges. Bayern. (Vol. xiv. pts. 1-3 & suppl.)

X.—Letters, Extracts, and Notes.

The Birds of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

SIR,—In the last part of their paper (Ibis, 1920, p. 815) Messrs. Sclater and Mackworth-Praed write of *Stephanibyx melanopterus melanopterus*: "Rüppell records a specimen of this bird from 'Nubia.' We should not regard it as admissible to the Sudanese list without further confirmation." There is a recent and confirmatory record. Mr. J. C. Phillips (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Cambridge, Mass., vol. lviii. no. 1, p. 6) obtained a female example at Sennar on the 27th of December, 1912.

As my record of the Sanderling *Crocethia alba alba* appears to be the only one from the Sudan, I would like to add that the bird was shot in the early spring on the White Nile at Khartoum and was in partial breeding-plumage. I mounted it myself and left it, labelled with sex and date, in the Gordon College Museum.

Yours truly,

A. L. BUTLER.

St. Leonard's Park, Horsham,
 28 October, 1920.

Breeding-places of the Black-headed Gull.

SIR,—In a notice of Mr. Robert Gurney's paper on "Breeding-stations of the Black-headed Gull in the British Isles," you quote a statement made therein that "there appear to be no breeding colonies in any of the central counties south of Yorkshire." This is not the case, however, for a flourishing colony of some 20 or 30 pairs has existed for two years past on the moors not far from Baslow, in Derbyshire. I may add that Mr. Gurney's assertion that "the only [central] counties in which this Gull has formerly bred are Staffordshire and Shropshire" is also incorrect, as there has never been a colony in Shropshire.

Yours truly,

F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

7 November, 1920.

Nestling Birds.

SIR,—A regrettable error occurs in my paper, "A Contribution to the Study of Nestling Birds," published in the last number of 'The Ibis.' On p. 857, under my definition of the term "Mesoptile," the Barn-Owl, instead of the Tawny Owl, is given as a typical example of a species possessing this form of plumage. The mistake arose, I believe, from an editorial misinterpretation of *Aluco*—a pardonable mistake in view of the recent nomenclatorial changes in the use of this word. The error is, however, very misleading and, as it largely vitiates my definition of Mesoptile, I would be very much obliged if members of the B. O. U. would kindly correct it by making the necessary MS. alteration in their copies of 'The Ibis.' The Barn-Owls, it may be noted, are among the few species of Owls that possess little or no trace of this peculiar juvenile plumage.

I remain, &c.,

COLLINGWOOD INGRAM.

Benenden,
29 October, 1920.

Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.

The meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Washington, D.C., on 8-11 November, 1920, was one of the largest in the history of the Union. One-half of the Fellows and about 10 per cent. of the entire membership were in attendance. The business meetings on Monday were held at the Cosmos Club, and the other sessions at the U.S. National Museum. The election of Fellows and Members included Robert Cushman Murphy of Brooklyn, N.Y., as Fellow; E. C. Stuart Baker and Dr. Percy Lowe of London, Honorary Fellows; 13 Foreign Corresponding Fellows, among whom were Miss Dorothea Bate, Major Claude H. B. Grant, Miss Maud H. Haviland, Capt. Collingwood Ingram, David Seth-Smith, and Miss Emma L. Turner; 5 Members and 307 Associates. The election of officers for 1921 resulted as follows:—President, Dr. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia; Vice-Presidents, Dr. George Bird Grinnell and Dr. Jonathan Dwight, New York; Secretary, Dr. T. S. Palmer, 1939 Biltmore St., Washington, D.C.; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey, Washington, D.C. The single vacancy in the Council was filled by the selection of Dr. W. H. Osgood of Chicago, and the other six members were re-elected. The program of nearly forty papers, five of which were illustrated by motion pictures, covered a wide range of subjects relating to North American birds, and also included papers on the birds of Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru, Europe, and Madagascar. In connection with the meeting an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and photographs of birds by American artists, supplemented by a series of prints showing the development of zoological illustration as applied to birds from the earliest times down to date, was arranged in the Division of Prints in the Library of Congress.

T. S. PALMER,
Secretary.

Wild Birds Protection Acts.

The following committees have been appointed to advise the Government in connection with the administration of the Wild Birds Protection Acts:—

By the Home Secretary for England—

His Grace the Duke of Rutland, K.G. (*Chairman*).

Mr. H. G. Maurice, C.B., of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Percy R. Lowe, O.B.E., of the Natural History Museum.

Dr. Montague Sharpe, K.C., Chairman of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, O.B.E., F.Z.S., Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union.

By the Secretary for Scotland—

Mr. Hugh S. Gladstone, F.R.S.E. (*Chairman*).

Mr. Wm. Eagle Clarke, LL.D.

Mr. Walter E. Collinge, D.Sc.

Mr. H. M. Conacher (representing the Board of Agriculture for Scotland).

Mr. H. J. Crowe (representing the Fishery Board for Scotland).

Professor J. Arthur Thomson, LL.D.

Russian Ornithologists.

In the list of members of the Union will be found the names of six Russian Ornithologists, and we have recently made several attempts to find out what has become of them since the revolution in Russia. From various sources we learn the following, though the evidence is not altogether satisfactory in any single case. Michael Menzbier is believed to have been murdered in the streets of Moscow early in the revolution. Sergius Buturlin is also reported to have died. Valentine Bianchi is alive and still at the Museum of the Academy of Sciences at Petrograd. Peter Suskin was

recently at Simferopol in the Crimea, where he was acting as a professor in the so-called "White University." What has happened to him since the invasion and occupation of the Crimea by the Bolshevist forces we have not heard. We have no news of Gregory Poliakov or Sergius Alpheraki. Baron Loudon, a well-known ornithologist though not on our list of members, was robbed and plundered of his possessions and driven out of Livonia by the Bolshevists, and is now living in Berlin.

The Editor or Secretary of the Union would be very glad of any further information in regard to the fate of our unfortunate Fellow-Ibises in Russia.

Personalia.

Mr. A. F. R. WOLLASTON, M.A., B.Ch., D.S.O., M.B.O.U., has recently been elected to a Fellowship of King's College, Cambridge. Mr. Wollaston is well known to us for his explorations, both geographical and ornithological, of Ruwenzori and Dutch New Guinea, and is now organizing another expedition to the latter. He has recently completed a life of the late Professor Alfred Newton.

Mr. N. B. KINNEAR, M.B.O.U., has recently been appointed a First Class Assistant in the Natural History Museum, and is working in the bird-room under Dr. P. R. Lowe.

Capt. HUBERT LYNES, C.B., C.M.G., R.N., who spent some months last winter in Dafur, has recently returned there accompanied by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe. He proposes to spend at least eighteen months in the Sudan collecting birds and making observations. He will also devote some of his time to other branches of Natural History.

Mr. GEORGE L. BATES of Cameroon fame, who has been in England for some months during the past season, has returned to Bitye in southern Cameroon, and hopes to make further explorations in Nigeria as well as in Cameroon.